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# Places & Spaces

Community Summary Report  
**February 2021**



## Wyndham 2040 Community Vision for Places and Spaces

The Wyndham 2040 Community Vision describes the community's aspirations for the future of our City. The current Vision for Places and Spaces is as follows:

*“Wyndham’s transport system will be efficient. People will be able to move around Wyndham easily. There will be more ways to connect to greater Melbourne. Our natural environment will be respected, preserved and protected. Our city will offer a diverse range of housing types and built environments that contribute to the quality of life of residents at all ages. Our parks and open spaces will connect people with the outdoors and each other. They will be activated and inviting destinations for residents and visitors.”*

The current population of Wyndham is forecast to double between now and 2040. As Wyndham continues to grow and change, so will the aspirations and needs of our diverse community.

It goes without saying that the COVID-19 pandemic has hit Wyndham hard. With more than 2,200 people testing positive to the Coronavirus in Wyndham since the beginning of the pandemic in March 2020, there have been many challenges but there are also opportunities. Together we have a chance to move towards a ‘new normal’ and build back better as we recover from the impacts of COVID-19.

This summary presents a snapshot of Places and Spaces. It includes current information about the municipality and the opportunities, challenges and issues facing the community now and into the future. The information is intended to assist you to work actively with Council to refresh the Wyndham 2040 Community Vision and determine priorities for Council to deliver over the next four years.

## Council Services

Under Places and Spaces, Council delivers services relating to the built and natural environments in which our community lives. Council works with its partners to build a City that offers a diverse range of housing and infrastructure such as community centres, parks and natural open spaces so that people in Wyndham enjoy healthy environments that promote happy and active lives.

Council provides 20 services under Places and Spaces, some of these include Asset Management, Buildings and Property, Roads, Open Spaces, Environment and Sustainability.

A full list of services provided by Council is available in the Places and Spaces Background Report.

## The Wyndham Municipality

- Covering an area of 542km<sup>2</sup>, the City of Wyndham is located on the western coastal volcanic plain of Port Phillip between Melbourne and Geelong. It is adjacent to the municipalities of Greater Geelong, Moorabool, Melton, Brimbank and Hobsons Bay.
- Wyndham is one of metropolitan Melbourne's designated growth corridors.
- The City comprises the suburbs of Werribee, Hoppers Crossing, Point Cook, Laverton, Laverton North, Williams Landing, Truganina, Tarneit and Wyndham Vale, all of which are within the Urban Growth Boundary. Werribee South, Cocoroc, Little River, Mambourin, Quandong, Eynesbury and Mount Cottrell are outside the growth area.
- Wyndham has strong industrial and technology districts, major retail precincts, key activity centres, established agricultural lands and important tourist attractions. Werribee South is one of the most significant market garden regions in the State, while Laverton North is a key major industrial area.
- Wyndham has a number of significant rivers and waterway corridors, such as Werribee River, Skeleton Creek, the Port Phillip Bay coastline and the habitats and wetlands of Point Cook and the Western Treatment complex.
- Wyndham experienced a 1.2% increase to its tree canopy cover since 2007.

## Land uses

- The key land uses in Wyndham are residential, commercial, industrial and green wedges.
- The majority of industrial land uses are located in the eastern side of the municipality and green wedges are located in the western and southern parts.

## Open Space

- Open space plays an important role in our community, providing places for exercise, quiet reflection, community gatherings, children's play and sports.
- In 2019, Wyndham had 9.9 hectares of public open space per 1,000 population. The residents of Wyndham place high importance on the provision and maintenance of public open spaces.

## Getting Around Wyndham

- 34 per cent of residents work locally, however the majority (62%) of Wyndham residents travel to work outside the municipality.
- The majority of residents who travel outside the municipality for work go to the City.
- For most residents in Wyndham their primary mode of transport to and from work is by car (69.2%) with very few being passengers (5.5%). Public transport is the second most common modality, however congestion on train and access to parking at station remain as a factor for people not using this form of transport more.
- Most people spent 30 minutes to one hour (36.3%) or one hour or more to less than 90 minutes (28.7%) per day commuting to and from work. Nearly one in five people spent more than 90 minutes per day in transit

## Transport

- The unprecedented impact of COVID-19 has seen a dramatic change in commuter behaviour and decrease in utilisation of public transport in many cities across the world. This could lead to an increase in private vehicle use for travel once the lockdowns are lifted.
- Locally, it has also led to an increase in walking and cycling for recreation.

## Roads

- Wyndham is a car dependent City with 59% of households having access to two or more vehicles.
- 2019 traffic surveys indicate Wyndham's road network is at/approaching full capacity.
- Between 2016 and 2020, Wyndham residents have expressed an increase in the level of importance with the maintenance and repair of sealed local roads and also expressed an increase in satisfaction.

## Walkability

- Most of the developing areas or recently developed areas (Point Cook, northern Truganina and Tarneit in particular) offer good walkability potential within neighbourhoods. On the other hand, established areas offer low walkability potential. Wyndham residents are interested in active transport.
- On a weekday, Wyndham residents take approximately 78,000 walking trips and 7,000 cycle trips originated within the LGA.
- 30.8% of residents choose to walk for recreation.
- 8.1% of residents cycle for recreation.

## Public Transport

- Williams Landing is the busiest railway station in Wyndham with around 6,500 average daily entries on weekdays.
- The number of commuters using the Regional Rail Link train stations at Wyndham Vale and Tarneit is growing by 20% and 17% respectively over the financial year.
- Bus routes within Wyndham averaged 21,000 daily boardings on weekdays in the first three months of 2019.
- In the 2019 community survey, 7.9% of respondents expressed the belief that public transport is a top issue for the municipality.

## Wyndham's environment

- Wyndham is home to many unique natural environmental features including rare and endangered flora and fauna, rivers and creeks, wetlands, an expansive coastline and numerous conservation reserves featuring native grassland and vegetation.
- Historically the Wyndham landscape was characterised by plains grasslands, coastal salt marshes, plains grassy woodlands and floodplain riparian woodland, all of which are now classified as vulnerable, endangered or depleted.
- The native grasslands are highly significant and now critically endangered at a National level and endangered at a State level. Many of the plants and animals found in Wyndham are threatened; including 22 nationally listed species and 119 state listed species.
- Council is committed to enhancing the environment and liveability for residents.

## Environmental Sustainability

### *Renewable Energy*

- Wyndham is harnessing the power of the sun. Since 2015, Council has installed solar on over 50 buildings including community centres, sporting pavilions and childcare centres as part of the Wyndham Solar City Project.
- Wyndham businesses and residents are embracing renewable energy. Over 40,000kW of solar has been installed since 2014/15 and postcode 3029 is ranked 7th in Australia for its uptake of solar energy.
- In 2019/20, Council's annual greenhouse gas emissions were 19,796 tonnes CO<sub>2</sub> compared to 24,900 tonnes CO<sub>2</sub> in 2016/17. Emissions have reduced even as Wyndham has continued to grow.

### *Waste Avoidance*

- Wyndham City are continuing to strive towards the target of 90% waste diversion by 2040 as per the Waste & Litter Strategy 2016-2040.
- In 2016/17 the average waste collected from kerbside bins that was diverted to landfill was 37.15% and this has remained at the same rate throughout the last four years, currently for 2019/20 it is at 37.39%.

## Assets and Project Management at Wyndham City

### *Asset Management*

Council has ownership and responsibility of over \$4 billion of community assets, with the value of these assets expected to grow to over \$6 billion by 2040. These assets consist of infrastructure such as roads, drains, buildings, open space, fleet, information systems, and the Refuse Disposal Facility (RDF). Each asset comes with its unique challenges to ensure the asset is both safe for the community and is fit for its intended purpose. How assets are used, and the demand they are placed under, impacts how often we need to maintain, renew and eventually replace them.

This life cycle has an impact on Council's financial operations and long-term forecasting, given the growth in assets that will become Council's responsibility, and the age of the assets over time. The impact of rate capping and assets degrading quicker than predicted, will place increasing pressure on Council's capacity fund the renewal or replacement of assets in the future.

### *Capital Works*

Council's investment in capital works ensures the creation and rejuvenation of assets and infrastructure. This not only provides direct services to residents but enhances the economy of the City; providing job opportunities and building the confidence of private investors in our City.

A co-ordinated and carefully balanced approach ensures we can dream big and shape our City into an even greater place to live, while ensuring the organisation remains sustainable into the future.

## Advocacy

There are many infrastructure and service gaps affecting our community that we can't solve on our own. We're largely reliant on other levels of government to fund and provide the infrastructure and services our community needs to prosper. That's why it's important for us to hear from our community about what our city needs, and then communicate these needs and seek action from politicians, government departments, and other key stakeholders. This is what we call advocacy – and it's one of the most important functions we perform.

[Securing Wyndham's Future](#) is council's advocacy strategy that is updated regularly to reflect community needs and government policy and funding changes. Some key advocacy priorities and recent outcomes are listed below:

### *Our Transport Network*

- We use our transport network to get to and from work, pick up the kids from school, do the shopping, and visit our friends and relatives. A network that lets us do these things quickly, safely and efficiently improves our individual wellbeing and helps our community prosper. On the other hand, research shows poor transport access has a big impact on people's happiness, productivity, and physical health.
- We are thankful for the investments the Victorian Government is making into road and railway infrastructure, including the 2020-21 Budget announcement to upgrade the intersection of Sneydes Rd and Point Cook Rd, Point Cook, but years of underinvestment means there's a lot of catching up to do.

### *Roads*

- Many sections of Wyndham's roads have reached capacity, and some are carrying far more traffic than they were designed for. This is causing traffic jams, delayed bus services, and safety issues – particularly for pedestrians and cyclists.
- Wyndham's commuters and freight industries urgently need upgrades to arterial roads key intersections and new infrastructure like Westlink, which would connect rapidly developing residential areas in the west of Wyndham to the Princes Freeway. We need to unclog our road network and get Wyndham moving.

### *Public Transport*

- Trains are regularly overcrowded and there aren't enough stations to service our growth areas. This means our residents are more reliant on their cars – and this causes road congestion and overflowing car parks around train stations.
- Our rapidly-growing population urgently needs additional train capacity by upgrading the Regional Rail Link to an electrified metro line to Wyndham Vale.
- We also need new and more frequent bus services for residents in Tarneit, Wyndham Vale, Manor Lakes, Truganina and Point Cook.

### *Pedestrian and cycling infrastructure*

- Wyndham has an extensive walking and cycling tracks, but there are gaps in the network. It needs to be expanded and updated so that it meets contemporary safety standards.

- Better linking transport connections between residential areas, activity centres and train stations will provide more economically and environmentally sustainable outcomes for Wyndham.

#### *Less out-of-sequence development*

- Out-of-sequence development happens when people are permitted to move into housing estates before infrastructure and services are properly in place. This creates social isolation, long commutes, and poor access to basic services like schools, parks, community centres and health clinics.
- We're seeking a new approach to urban development that makes sure this doesn't happen. We want the Victorian Government to work with us in making sure development happens in line with the rollout of infrastructure and services our community needs.

#### *Environment*

- While global issues such as climate change, population growth and consumption patterns will affect us, we also have the opportunity to provide local responses unique to Wyndham. We're seeking long-term partnerships with land managers and the Victorian Government to make sure we understand how our coastal communities and environments will be affected by climate change and address gaps in planning for a changing climate.
- Wyndham has significant environmental assets that feature rare flora and fauna, natural coastline, sites of international migratory importance and unique waterways and wetlands. Many of these assets are under the care of Wyndham Council. Others like the Western Grasslands Reserves need ongoing state government support to secure their future.
- Wyndham City has one of the largest landfill sites in Victoria – and much of the waste arrives from neighbouring areas. We have the technology and knowhow to make landfill a last resort. Around 60% of our household waste goes to landfill – we want to reduce that to 10%, with the rest being recycled and recovered.

#### *Impacts of COVID-19*

The impacts of COVID-19 have been felt right across the globe and Wyndham is no exception. Although information is still coming in, analysis of social, health and economic data available as at December 2020 can help us respond to the COVID-19 impacts on the community.

The COVID-19 pandemic has been a challenge for Wyndham but also an opportunity for the community to reimagine where we live, work and play.

For more information please refer to the COVID-19 Response and Recovery summary report.